

## President's Message

(Rob Norris)

Over the last several months, your RLPOA Board has been attending public meetings throughout the province to keep abreast of the Algonquin Land Claims. Please see the related article and attached petition for information on how you can help.

A special thanks to RLPOA members who have already generously contributed to this year's **Lake Trout Program**. I would like to encourage all property owners to get involved with this exciting community project. For \$125.00, your family, neighbours and friends can help purchase 100 Lake Trout.



Any support you can provide towards our community endeavours would be greatly appreciated!

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Board Position Nomination Deadline July 7<sup>th</sup>

Three-year terms for the following RLPOA board positions are concluding and therefore open to election (*Read – volunteers!*): President (& Past President); Vice President; Treasurer; Lake Steward; Water Levels Chair; Shoreline Directors for Reserve Creek to Jack's Creek; Pine Point to Bonnechere River; Dombroskie's Point to Reserve Creek. Nominations must be received (*Read – let us know!*) by July 7<sup>th</sup>. You can use your mail-back envelope, email us (addresses at the bottom of this page), or contact any board member.

Spots that are currently vacant and can be filled by board approval at any time during the positions' terms are listed on the mail-in sheet. Please consider helping the RLPOA and your lake by taking a turn on the board. Use your mail-in sheet or contact any board member. Questions can be directed to Pres. Rob Norris or Past Pres. Wendy Engel.

### RLPOA Members' AGM July 27<sup>th</sup>

The Round Lake Property Owners' Association members' Annual General Meeting will take place in Saint Casimir's Church Hall, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m., and the meeting starting at 9:30 sharp. We look forward to seeing all the familiar faces, and to welcoming new members.

# Newsletter Spring 2013

## Round Lake Boat Parade August 10<sup>th</sup>

KHR Township Volunteer Coordinator Maria Mayville is putting plans together for a Round Lake boat parade Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 in the evening. We hope lots of Round Lake boaters will participate! Boats can launch from the public boat ramp on Lake St. (beside St. Casimir's church) at Round Lake Centre or from your own dock. Watch for more details in our summer newsletter. And—if you would like to volunteer your help, as many hands on deck as possible are welcome. Please contact Maria at: 613-757-1566; [khrvolunteernetwork@gmail.com](mailto:khrvolunteernetwork@gmail.com); Facebook: Naturally Spirited! KillaloeHagartyRichards.



## RLPOA Business Directory

While we celebrated the RLPOA's 50<sup>th</sup> year, last summer, another anniversary slipped by: Since its inaugural publication, the number of businesses advertised in the RLPOA Annual Business Directory has nearly doubled from 40 in 2002 to 76 in 2012. **The support of the directory by local businesses has been a substantial part of our fundraising program**, and has helped us to support them by making Round Lake property owners aware of the wide number and diversity of services available right here in the area. (A directory is delivered to each of the approximately 470 properties around the lake.) RLPOA Vice Pres. Mike Kendall, assisted by fellow board members Linda Dombroski and Wendy Engel, coordinates the gathering of ads, each year.

The booklet not only advertises local businesses; it is also full of handy information, including municipal, RLPOA, and emergency contacts, websites pertinent to waterfront property interests, stewardship tips, emergency info, and waste disposal schedules—a truly useful little publication and RLPOA service to our lake.

**We invite Round Lake property owners to take advantage of this opportunity to advertise their own businesses and services as well.** Please see the information on the mail-in page, and keep in mind that ads are printed as they are received, and in black and white only.

We thank our advertisers, and encourage you to do so as well—by shopping locally!

## Algonquin Land Claim

Our winter newsletter informed Round Lake property owners that negotiations involving the Algonquins, and the Ontario (Ministry of Natural Resources) and federal governments to settle the long-outstanding Algonquin Land Claim had resulted in a "Preliminary Comprehensive Draft Agreement in Principle" (AIP). The agreement includes transfer of at least 117,500 acres of crown land to the Algonquins.

The **negotiating team had consulted with municipal staff** over the summer to learn what current uses/impediments there might be to the proposed transfers, for example whether the parcel of interest has access or municipal/private roads, or is a former waste disposal site. Townships had also provided local knowledge on Crown land use, i.e. public camping/picnicking, etc. Although **municipal councils were informed of the plans**, they were **required to keep them confidential**. They were not part of the decisions as to what land packages would be transferred, and **they were not given a "vote"**.

The **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters** and the **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations** were listed by the authors of the AIP as members of the "Committee of External Advisors" in the negotiations, however both indicated that **their input had been neither enthusiastically sought nor effectively utilized by the negotiators, and that the process had lacked transparency**. They strongly felt that the public should be made aware of the potential impact of the AIP. The RLPOA notified Round Lake property owners via email of OFAH/FOCA information meetings held between February 22 and March 6 in Perth, Stittsville, Pembroke, North Bay and Bancroft. A wide range of concerns was covered, including: privatization (transfer to Algonquins) of public land including parks and lakes, some of which have been publicly stocked; transfer of prime crown waterfront property currently being enjoyed by the public; restriction of access to public land through transferred lands; conservation rules and enforcement; land use planning in keeping with a healthy waterfront environment. **Property owners were urged to write to their MP, MPP, and to MNR.**

At the Pembroke meeting, Round Lake property owner Nancy Gavin announced that a "**Save Foy Park**" petition has been launched at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org), recommending that Foy Park remain accessible to all people. We have agreed to include the form in our newsletter; you may use the RLPOA return envelope.

The RLPOA also notified you of the **government's subsequent public information sessions**, held at eight locations between March 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. (To accommodate the number of concerned citizens, a second Pembroke session will be held in April.) It was learned from Land Selection documents that **the Algonquins have designated Foy Park for economic development**, that this parcel of Round Lake

waterfront property would be managed by a land trust or corporation, and that there is a need for clarification of plans. (MNR notations are that Round Lake is a lake trout lake, and there may be a need for a lake capacity study.) Zoning will be negotiated between the negotiating team and the County, but would be "compatible" with local zoning. **The Algonquins intend to create a concept plan that will indicate their intentions**, however a representative has verbally expressed that they do not wish to employ aggressive development.

It was emphasized that although the land claim agreement is to reflect the best interests of the Algonquins, they are **open to discussing local concerns**, with a goal of reaching, if possible, an acceptable compromise regarding their land use. The RLPOA looks forward to participation in these regional negotiations.

The foregoing has concentrated on Foy Park, and has therefore barely scratched the surface of the many concerns expressed by OFAH, FOCA, and individuals at public meetings, or the assurances received at the government information sessions.

We continue to recommend the following websites for information: Ontario government site, <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca/english/negotiate/algonquin/preliminary-draft-aip.asp>; OFAH site, [algonquinlandclaim.ca](http://algonquinlandclaim.ca); FOCA site, [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) then click on Hot Topics.

### KUDOS

The RLPOA thanks the **Township of Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards** for supporting the RLPOA's trout stocking funding initiative by keeping the program front and centre at local activities, and by encouraging donations from residents in the Township at large.

Our gratitude to **Kathy Marion**, a runner up in the last municipal election, for accepting KHR's invitation to fill the vacancy on council due to the death of Councillor Ernie Cybulski. A Round Lake property owner and former councillor, Kathy brings her considerable experience to again representing the ratepayers of Ward Three.

Kudos to **KHR** for instituting **mandatory use of clear garbage bags** at its waste management sites. As a result, bagged garbage has been reduced by nearly 50%, recycling has doubled, and twelve times the former amount of organic waste is being deposited in the MOLOK containers. Councillor Stanley Pecoskie, chair of the waste management committee, notes that the citizens of KHR have adjusted well to the changes. Although charges were doubled to \$2.00 per bag, people are generally using only half the number of bags. Well done, everyone!

## Water Levels

(by RLPOA Water Levels Chair Don Pouliot)

[djfp@sympatico.ca](mailto:djfp@sympatico.ca)

### Mid-March

(from *These Waves*,  
by Emily Burton)

A non-season of shy days  
neither blizzard nor thaw.  
I walk onto the frozen lake  
white canvas  
snow particulate like sand  
and superimpose summer.

The best summer days were  
sunless, still,  
many shades of grey.  
All that moved was me  
rocking in a black inner tube  
sending gentle, swaying snakes  
towards shore.

Between my house and my friend's  
house  
was a path of sand, hot on bare feet,  
and pebbles and pine cones, sharp.  
But running to my friend's house  
my feet would lighten  
and hardly touch the ground.

Mozart crackles on CBC  
while adults rustle newspapers  
in the next room. I lie looking at the  
knots on the ceiling. Slowly they  
move.  
Here a June bug, there a snake,  
a chipmunk's stripes,  
one angry eye.

There was one summer I seemed to  
weep  
throughout, kneeling in the garden  
among yellow beans, or  
rocking in the hammock  
at dusk, thinking  
here is one day less of summer.

*Emily grew up cottaging at Round Lake, and is a writer, musician  
and photographer. She lives in Ottawa.*

### Winter Water Levels

In early winter, a Round Lake property owner expressed concerns to both Renfrew Power Generation and the MNR over RPG's decision to raise water levels at freeze-up well above the Water Management Plan's recommended typical operating line.

**The concern was that if a thermal ice push occurs at such high water levels**, the resultant movement of the ice causes significant damage to upper shoreline areas, as has been the case almost annually since the inception of the WMP in 2004. Subsequently, high wind water/wave action during the high spring freshet flooding washes the loose sand moved by the ice during the winter. The sand moves mostly along the shorelines, depending on wind direction, but ultimately with a net result of pulling most of this sand back into the lake, thereby causing **significant erosion to sandy beaches**. Some property owners have reported losses of as much as 50-60 feet of beachfront over the years.



RPG declined to respond. MNR's response was: "Renfrew Power Generation is required to operate within the parameters of the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan (BRWMP). There are no secondary plans made or approved outside of the BRWMP for water management on Round Lake." **This plan was vigorously opposed** by 3 of the 9 members of the Public Advisory Committee yet was passed despite their very strong objections.

Over the past several years your association, as your representative, has submitted to both the MNR and RPG numerous **concerns as well as proposals** to modify the WMP to lower winter water levels to help reduce erosion on Round Lake.

To protect Round Lake's highly erosion-prone sandy beaches, the RLPOA intends to pursue an amendment to the WMP to lower winter levels for ice push protection and to remove the lower limits of the WMP to allow RPG to maintain its drawdown capacity for hydro-electric production.

It is the opinion of the RLPOA that winter water levels should be capped at a level that would **create a perimeter buffer zone** between 30 - 40 feet for ice push containment, and that the lower limit of the WMP in late spring be lowered proportionally for RPG production needs.

## Dug Wells

To determine the appropriate levels it is necessary to identify the impact of lowered water levels on the numerous dug wells serving many of the cottages and homes around the lake. As most, if not all dug wells fluctuate with lake levels, it is important to research as to what the optimum or minimal lake level could be without jeopardizing the water supply to these wells.

**We have again enclosed a survey form.** We ask you to complete the measurements illustrated, and send the form in to one of the addresses listed. The data provided for each well will be mapped and analyzed relative to all wells, and will assist us in determining the optimal water level parameters that can be employed to prevent potential ice damage.

We would appreciate your completing and submitting the form as soon as possible.

### Ice Push This Winter:

There were two reported thermal ice push events this past winter. The first, around Jan 14<sup>th</sup> was accompanied by very loud 'booms' that literally 'shook the house' and affected primarily the northern portion of Eno Bay and St Pat's Bay. Total ice movement was approximately 3 feet. The second occurred on Feb 04<sup>th</sup> and was primarily on Sand Bay. Ice travel was also only about 3-5 feet. There have been **no reports of shoreline damage to date but may receive some once cottagers start returning.** However with only a few feet of shoreline travel the expectation is minimal damage overall. A welcome respite from years past.



One very interesting observation: On both Round and Golden Lakes, large and extensive **ice ridges were formed out towards the middle of the lakes.** This generally indicates that the ice/shore bond was very strong and the pressure

from the thermal ice push events could only be released by upward buckling of the ice thereby relieving the pressure of ice movement onto the shore. This could be a possible explanation for the minimal shoreline damage this year. But—reports from some permanent residents and cottage owners is that the shoreline ice was not thick at the time of the ice push events and there was in some cases water along the shoreline indicating that the shoreline bond may in fact have been very minimal. It would be interesting to find an explanation as to why or how ice ridges could be formed under these conditions.

### Spring Freshet Levels

Currently, water levels have been brought down to the lowest allowed by the WMP in anticipation of the forthcoming spring freshet. We recommend that you **keep an eye on the Renfrew Power Generation website** for updates on the

spring water levels as the snow melts, the ground thaws, and the seasonal rains begin. At [www.renfrewpg.ca](http://www.renfrewpg.ca), click on spring freshet. To review water levels, go to water management, then water levels, and Tramore/Round Lake. You may also wish to have a neighbour who is at the lake keep you informed of flooding conditions. At the Township website, [www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca](http://www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca), you can choose water levels for more info and contacts to obtain a supply of sand bags.

### Miscellaneous

**Repair work to the weir** portion of the Tramore dam remains on hold, pending MNR approval. RPG expects the permit to be released this spring and work should commence in a July 2013 time frame. Normal water levels should not be impacted, as a 25-foot cofferdam will be erected in front of the weir. Work is expected to take 1-2 months to complete.

**RPG's major upgrade to its Renfrew facilities**, the Thomas Low Project, has secured backing by the Town of Renfrew for a funding loan of \$22 million. Permits and approvals by MNR and MOE appear to be on track and work could commence as soon as this spring. RPG is also in process of applying for funding and approval for a facility at the First Chute on the Bonnechere, close to the Ottawa River.

The scheduled **review of the WMP for this fall has been indefinitely deferred** by the MNR pending budget reviews. The WMP may be rolled into other programs and discussions are underway as to how this can be effected. To date this remains unresolved and until it is the current WMP will remain in effect.

### Some Good Fishing News

It appears that pike fishing over the winter has been quite successful particularly in the shallower areas of the lake. Reports are that several good size 16-20 lb. fish have been caught and one at 22 lb. was the largest.



### PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION!

We would appreciate:

- your help—have a look at the mail-in page.
- your membership fee—quite a bargain at \$20.00!
- your participation in surveys—currently re dug wells.
- your participation in activities—such as a boat parade.
- your participation in fundraising—see the mail-in page.

**Thank you, and Happy Spring  
from your RLPOA Board of Directors.**